

UNCLASSIFIED

E6

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 CARACA 01240 01 OF 09 061924Z
ACTION ARA-01

RELEASED IN PART
B2, B1, 1.4(B), 1.4(D), B6

INFO LOG-00 AMAD-01 CA-02 DS-00 INRE-00 INR-01 ADS-00
OCS-06 PM-01 P-01 SCT-03 SP-01 SS-01 /018W
-----0C2B4D 062011Z /44

P 061917Z FEB 92
FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8087

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 09 CARACAS 01240

STADIS////////////////////////////////////

E.O. 12356: DECL:OADR
TAGS: PGOV, PREL, CASC, VE
SUBJECT: EMBASSY CARACAS LOG: FEBRUARY 4 COUP ATTEMPT

1. CONFIDENTIAL - ENTIRE TEXT

2. THERE FOLLOWS, FOR THE RECORD, A LOG PREPARED BY
EMBOFF IN EMBASSY CONTROL ROOM DURING THE FAILED COUP
ATTEMPT IN VENEZUELA ON FEBRUARY 4.

0050 TELEPHONED DCM TO ALERT HIM TO SITUATION.

B1, B2

0055 DCM ADVISED AMBASSADOR AND PROCEEDED TO
EMBASSY CHANCERY. CALLED IN APPROPRIATE
MISSION STAFF MEMBERS.

0100 AMBASSADOR TELEPHONED STATE OPERATIONS CENTER
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PAGE 02 CARACA 01240 01 OF 09 061924Z
AND PROVIDED INITIAL INFORMATION.

0130 SERIES OF PHONE CONVERSATIONS INCLUDING AMB.
SKOL, ASSISTANT SECRETARY ARONSON, PDAS
GELBARD, DAS MCLEAN.

0140 AMBASSADOR'S DISIP (INTERIOR MINISTRY POLICE)
PROTECTIVE DETAIL ARRIVES AT RESIDENCE.

0145 TASK FORCE CONSTITUTED IN DCM'S OFFICE.

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0200 CAP APPEARED ON CHANNEL 4, SAYING "RESISTENCE HAS BEEN CRUSHED." "REGIMENT OF PARACHUTISTS OF ARAGUA BROKE THEIR OATH, ATTACKED MIRAFLORES AND LA CASONA. FAILED. LOYAL TROOPS ARE SUPPRESSING THE SUBVERSION. CALL ON ALL FORCES TO BE ON ALERT IN THEIR BARRACKS. IN VENEZUELA, THE PEOPLE RULE (REF TO THE DAMAGE TO VENEZUELAN IMAGE OF THIS SUBVERSIVE ACTION.) WILL BE BACK IN MINUTES TO REPORT SUBVERSION CRUSHED."

0210 [REDACTED] CALLED TO SAY THAT HE HAD CALLED [REDACTED] SAID PARACHUTISTS FROM MARACAY HAD TAKEN LA CASONA (PRESIDENTIAL RESIDENCE). B1, B2

0218 [REDACTED] CALLED DCM. HE SAID: PRESIDENT IS AT THE PALACE (HAD SPOKEN TO HIM). PRESIDENT IS "SURROUNDED", LA CASONA "TAKEN," MINISTRY OF DEFENSE AT FUERTE TIUNA B1
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PAGE 03 CARACA 01240 01 OF 09 061924Z
BEING ATTACKED, FIGHTING IN MARACAIBO. LOWER LEVEL PEOPLE, NOT HIGH COMMAND ARE BEHIND THIS REVOLT. [REDACTED] AMB CONSALVI IN WASHINGTON TO ENGAGE U.S. B1

0220 DISPATCHED INITIAL CABLE REPORTING ATTEMPTED COUP. (CARACAS 01094)

0220 CAP AND AMB SPOKE BY PHONE. CAP DESCRIBED REVOLT AS: "IN NATURE OF A PUTSCH." TWO UNITS INVOLVED: 1-PARACHUTISTS OF MARACAY; 2-AYALA UNIT OF CARACAS. CAP EXPRESSED CONFIDENCE TO AMB. HE IS AT VENEVISION (CHANNEL 4). DID NOT ASK FOR ANYTHING, BUT SAID EXPRESSIONS OF SOLIDARITY (BY WASHINGTON) WITH DEMOCRACY WOULD HELP.

0225 CONTINUED TELEPHONE CONVERSATIONS WITH AMB. SKOL, AS ARONSON, DAS GELBARD, DAS MCLEAN, NSC PRYCE, AND AMB. BUSBY (BOGOTA). TEXT OF STATE DEPARTMENT STATEMENT ON COUP AGREED ON. LATER: RECOMMENDATION THAT PRESIDENT BUSH CALL CAP.

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0226 COPEI SEC GEN E. FERNANDEZ ON CHANNEL 4
COMDEMNED THE REVOLT. SAID HE WAS IN TOUCH
W/CAP. HE ALSO SAID: "WE ARE A CIVILIZED
STATE WITH DEMOCRACY." CALLED ON SOLDIERS
AND OFFICERS. YOUR DUTY IS THE
CONSTITUTION. YOUR OATH OF LOYALTY. OUR
INTERNATIONAL PRESTIGE CALLS FOR US TO
CONFIDENTIAL

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BELIEVE SERIOUSLY IN AND DEFEND THE
CONSTITUTION. VOTES, NOT BULLETS. THE
COUNTRY SUPPORTS THE CONSTITUTION. REPUDIATE
THE FORCES TRYING TO BREAK THE CONSTITUTION.
COMMANDERS ARE SUPPORTING THE CONSTITUTION.

0235 HOLLADAY RE AM CITS ARRESTED. TWO CARS
DRIVING BY LA CASONA. ONE HAD TIRES SHOT
OUT. FOUR OCCUPANTS (2 AMCITS) "HELD."

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ACTION ARA-01

INFO	LOG-00	AMAD-01	CA-02	DS-00	INRE-00	INR-01	ADS-00
	OCS-06	PM-01	P-01	SCT-03	SP-01	SS-01	/018W
-----0C2B51 062011Z /44							

P 061917Z FEB 92
FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8088

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STADIS////////////////////////////////////

E.O. 12356: DECL:OADR

TAGS: PGOV, PREL, CASC, VE

SUBJECT: EMBASSY CARACAS LOG: FEBRUARY 4 COUP ATTEMPT

0250 AMB TELEPHONED DCM. AMB PROVIDED STATE DEPARTMENT STATEMENT FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: "THE US STANDS IN COMPLETE SUPPORT OF PRESIDENT CARLOS ANDRES PEREZ AND HIS GOVERNMENT. IN THEIR DEFENSE OF VENEZUELA'S CONSTITUTIONAL DEMOCRACY. WE CONDEMN AND REJECT ANY VIOLENT ASSAULT ON THAT DEMOCRACY. WE HAVE NO DOUBTS THAT THIS HEMISPHERE AND INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY ALSO STAND UNITED IN FULL SUPPORT OF PRESIDENT PEREZ." AMB INSTRUCTED THAT USIS GET RELEASE OUT IMMEDIATELY TO ALL ELECTRONIC AND PRINT MEDIA. DCM INSTRUCTED PAO AND PRESS ATTACHE

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PAGE 02 CARACA 01240 02 OF 09 061925Z
TO IMPLEMENT.

0300 CALLED IN DUTY SECRETARY.

0300 HOLLADAY REPORTS AM CITS IN TROUBLE AROUND LA CARLOTA.

0310 [REDACTED] CALLED TO CHECK ON SITUATION.
BRIEFED BY CONGEN.

B6

0300 EDUARDO FERNANDEZ SPOKE AGAIN ON TV, THIS TIME IN CONCERT WITH GOVERNMENT AND AD'S SEC GEN HUMBERTO CELLI.

0331 POST I ADVISED THAT OUR LOCAL TELEPHONE OPERATOR HAD ARRIVED AT THE EMBASSY, [REDACTED]

B2, B6

0310 AMB CALLED DCM TO INDICATE THAT ASST SECRETARY ARONSON HAD TALKED TO CAP. CAP APPEARED CONFIDENT. ARONSON IS RECOMMENDING

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TO SECRETARY BAKER THAT PRESIDENT BUSH CALL
CAP AND THAT WORD OF THE CALL BE IMMEDIATELY
RELEASED.

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0319 MESSAGE #2 DISPATCHED (CARACAS 01095)

0320 CG HOLLADAY REPORTED A CALL FROM AMCIT
[REDACTED] IN A HOUSE NEAR LA CASONA.
SHE SAYS SHE WAS DRIVING BY THERE AND SAW
CONFIDENTIAL

B6

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PAGE 03 CARACA 01240 02 OF 09 061925Z
DISIP VEHICLES. DISIP WAS FIRING INTO LA
CASONA. [REDACTED]

0325 (AMCONSUL MARACAIBO) DARRELL JENKS CALLED.
HE HAD TALKED TO [REDACTED]
COMMANDER. AN UNKNOWN ARMoured UNIT OF THE
ARMY IS ATTACKING 35TH DETACHMENT OF THE
NATIONAL GUARD (ACROSS FROM COAST GUARD
HEADQUARTERS IN ZULIA). JENKS HAS NOT BEEN
ABLE TO GET IN TOUCH WITH ANY OTHER
MILITARY. [REDACTED] ORDERS
ARE TO DEFEND HIS UNIT. COMMUNICATIONS ARE
TERRIBLE, ACCORDING TO [REDACTED] BUT IT IS
DANGEROUS AND THERE IS FIGHTING IN STATE OF
ZULIA.

B1

0330 DUTY SECRETARY ARRIVED.

0335 [REDACTED] AMCIT, ON A LONG TERM
ASSIGNMENT [REDACTED] CALLED. THEY
HAVE ABOUT 12 PEOPLE IN CARACAS AND ANOTHER
10 FAMILIES ON PENINSULA (NOT ALL AMCITS,
SOME ARE UK). NOT REGISTERED AT CONSULATE.
TOOK HOME PHONE NUMBER [REDACTED]

B6

0340 DCM CALLED MEETING OF EAC. AS RESULT OF
MEETING, DECISION TAKEN TO PREPARE MESSAGE
FOR EMBASSY EMPLOYEES AND OTHER AMCITS, AND
TO ACTIVATE WARDEN NET TO DELIVER IT.

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DECISION TAKEN TO RECOMMEND THAT AMERICAN
SCHOOLS BE CLOSED FOR FEBRUARY 4. DECISION
ALSO TAKEN TO ASK ALL BUT "ESSENTIAL"
PERSONNEL TO REMAIN AT HOME ON FEBRUARY 4.
ACTIONS INITIATED TO IMPLEMENT THE ABOVE.

0345 [] AND TOLD DCM THAT NAVY B1
HEADQUARTERS HAD BEEN TAKEN BY A COMPANY
-SIZED ARMY UNIT AND THAT NAVY PERSONNEL WERE
TAKEN PRISONER.

0345 JANET CRIST, POLCONS, AMEMB BOGOTA, CALLED
FOR (POLCOUNS) MILLAN TO COORDINATE RELEASE
OF DOS STATEMENT IN SUPPORT OF DEMOCRACY.

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PAGE 01 CARACA 01240 03 OF 09 072251Z
ACTION ARA-01

INFO LOG-00 AMAD-01 CA-02 DS-00 INRE-00 INR-01 ADS-00
OCS-06 PM-01 P-01 SCT-03 SP-01 SS-01 /018W
-----OCBEBB 072304Z /65/44

P 061917Z FEB 92
FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8089

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 03 OF 09 CARACAS 01240

STADIS//////////

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (TEXT)

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TAGS: PGOV, PREL, CASC, VE

SUBJECT: EMBASSY CARACAS LOG: FEBRUARY 4 COUP ATTEMPT

0350 [REDACTED] SYSTEMS MANAGER, WAS ASKED TO
COME IN TO ACTIVATE UNCLASSIFIED SYSTEM.

B6

0400 DUTY OFFICER PHONED D. JENKS PER CONGEN.
ASKED HIM TO NOTIFY ESCUELA BELLA VISTA THAT
THE TWO CARACAS SCHOOLS HAVE BEEN ADVISED NOT
TO OPEN. ASKED THAT HE DO SAME FOR MARACAIBO
SCHOOL. DUTY OFFICER CALLED [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] BUT THERE WAS NO ANSWER.

B2

0400 [REDACTED] CALLED FOR DCM. HIS SOURCE
TOLD HIM THAT ARMY GENERAL OFFICER IN
CONFIDENTIAL

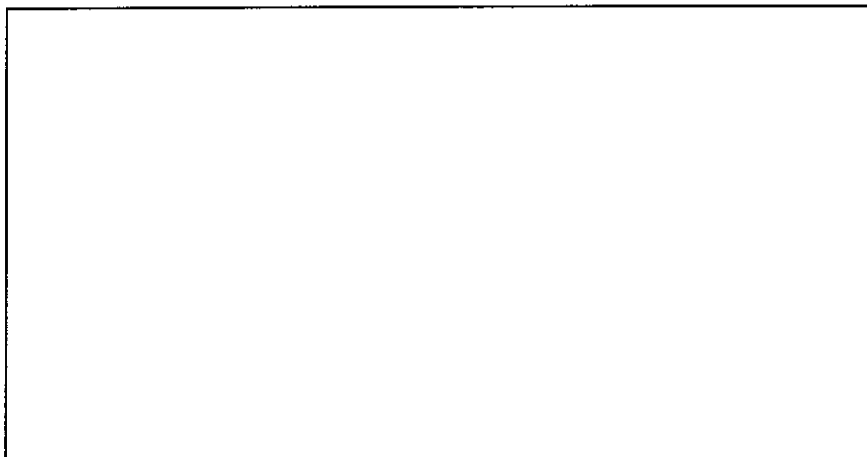
B1

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 CARACA 01240 03 OF 09 072251Z
[REDACTED] COUP. REBEL TANKS ARE
ROLLING IN MARACAY.

0405 AD PARTY ELDER AND FORMER PRESIDENTIAL
CANDIDATE LUIS PINERUA APPEARED ON TV TO SHOW
SUPPORT.

0400 THE FOLLOWING WAS DISSEMINATED THROUGH THE
WARDEN NET:



B1, B2

0415 PHONED JENKS TO SEE IF HE COULD ADVISE/FIND
OUT ABOUT MARACAIBO MILITARY. HE SAID IT IS
"STRANGE" THAT THE ONLY MILITARY HE CAN GET
IN TOUCH WITH IS [REDACTED] HE HAD
HEARD THAT THE AIRPORT IS UNDER MILITARY

B1

CONTROL. DOESN'T KNOW IF IT IS "GOOD
MILITARY OR BAD MILITARY". UNCLASSIFIED
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0445 JENKS TALKED TO [REDACTED] TOLD HIM THAT: "WE HAVE AN
IRREGULAR SITUATION HERE. WE HAVE A GROUP OF
REBELS IN CONTROL OF SOME PARTS OF THE ARMY
[REDACTED]"

B1

1. AN ARMY INSTALLATION CALLED THE 'QUARTEL
DEL LIBERTADOR' 2. HEADQUARTERS OF THE
NATIONAL GUARD. 3. STATE POLICE
HEADQUARTERS AND 4. THE AIRPORT ARE ALL
UNDER REBEL CONTROL."

[REDACTED] REBEL OR LOYAL? JENKS: IT IS
IMPOSSIBLE TO TELL, BUT HE'D GUESS "LOYAL
SITTING ON FENCE." [REDACTED] WAITING FOR
CONFIRMATION OF MORE PLACES TAKEN OVER.

B1

0452 TWO MILITARY MEN (NAVY AND ARMY) APPEARED ON
TV TO SAY THE MILITARY SUPPORTS DEMOCRACY AND
THE GOVERNMENT.

0425 CAP APPEARED ON TV (LIVE). HE SAID THAT A
GROUP OF MILITARY HAD TRIED TO STAGE A COUP
AND TO ASSASSINATE HIM. BUT THE LOYAL ARMED
FORCES REPELLED THEM. HE FURTHER STATED THAT
GAVIRIA, SALINAS, FUJIMORI, MENEM AND OTHER
PRESIDENTS HAVE CALLED TO OFFER SUPPORT.
MITTERAND ALSO. SPAIN'S FELIPE GONZALEZ
CALLED. GEORGE BUSH GOT OUT OF BED AT 2:00
AM TO TELL OF THE COMMITMENT OF AMERICANS TO
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VENEZUELA AND TO DEMOCRACY. THE PRESIDENT
ADDED THAT THE ARMED FORCES OF VENEZUELA ARE
LOYAL TO HIM AND ARE FACING DOWN THE
REBELLION. VENEZUELA SPEAKS WITH ONE VOICE -
THERE ARE NO PARTIES, NO POLITICS. IN A FEW

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MINUTES HE WILL BE BACK IN MIRAFLORES WHICH
HAS BEEN RETAKEN. AD PRESIDENT AND COPEI
SECRETARY HAVE CALLED TO OFFER SUPPORT TO THE
NATIONAL ARMED FORCES. SPEAKING TO ARMED
FORCES, HE SAID: "AS YOUR COMMANDER, YOUR
LOYALTY SHOULD BE WITH ME. REBELS SHOULD NOT
BE RECOGNIZED BY YOU. AS YOUR CONSTITUTIONAL
LEADER, YOU SHOULD ONLY TAKE ORDERS FROM
LOYAL OFFICERS".

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0430 JENKS CALLED FROM MARACAIBO. HE HAD HEARD

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PAGE 01 CARACA 01240 04 OF 09 062001Z
ACTION ARA-01

INFO	LOG-00	AMAD-01	CA-02	DS-00	INRE-00	INR-01	ADS-00
	OCS-06	PM-01	P-01	SCT-03	SP-01	SS-01	/018W
-----0C2B53 062011Z /44							

P 061917Z FEB 92
FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8090

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 04 OF 09 CARACAS 01240

STADIS////////////////////////////////////

RUMORS THAT THE ARMED FORCES HAD RECEIVED
ORDERS TO LET GOLPISTAS USE UP THEIR AMMO AND
MOVE IN IN THE MORNING TO CLEAN UP. WILL
BRING TROOPS FROM PARAGUAPOYO IN THE
MORNING. STATE GOVERNOR AND PRESIDENT OF
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY ARE UNDER ARREST BY
REBELS.

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HE HAD GOTTEN IN TOUCH WITH SCHOOL AND TOLD THEM TO CLOSE. DCM TOLD JENKS TO ACTIVATE THE MARACAIBO WARDEN . HE RESPONDED THAT SOMEONE WOULD HAVE TO GO INTO THE OFFICE TO DO THAT. HE WILL SEND RICHARD ADAMS IN TO DO IT AND ADVISE US WHEN IT IS UP.

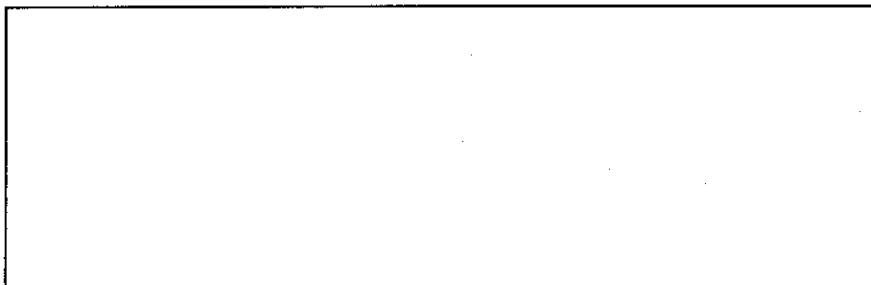
0440 MESSAGE #3 DISPATCHED (CARACAS 01096)

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PAGE 02 CARACA 01240 04 OF 09 062001Z
0510 FREDDY ROJAS, (PRESIDENT OF FEDECAMERAS)
APPEARED ON TV TO EXPRESS SUPPORT FOR GOV AND CAP.


0510



B1, B2

0515 OPS CENTER CALLED DCM FOR BRIEFING - HE SAID ANOTHER SITREP IS UNDER PREPARATION AND WILL BE TRANSMITTED SHORTLY.

0530

 CALLED FOR ASSESSMENT. HE WAS READ THE OFFICIAL STATEMENT. HE TOLD US THAT MAIQUETIA AIRPORT IS CLOSED. 15 MINUTES AGO HIS EMPLOYEES REPORTED FOR WORK AT THE AIRPORT AND WERE TOLD TO GO HOME.

B6

0541 MESSAGE #4 DISPATCHED (CARACAS 01099)

0555 GUNSHOTS (AUTOMATIC FIRE) HEARD AROUND THE EMBASSY. POLOFF SAYS IT WAS A FEW BLOCKS AWAY. REPORTS OF SPORADIC GUNFIRE SEEN FROM LA FLORESTA APARTMENTS. CG SAYS CARS ARE ABANDONED ALONG HIGHWAY NEAR LA CARLOTA.

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0600 [REDACTED] SAID THERE WOULD BE A MAJOR MILITARY EFFORT TO RECAPTURE LA CARLOTA AIRPORT BEFORE DAWN. B1

0610 POLCONS SPOKE TO POLSECRETARY ALBERTA MANLEY AT "GRINGO TOWERS" (LA FLORESTA -- APARTMENT BUILDING HOUSING SEVERAL MISSION FAMILIES) WHO SAID SNIPERS WERE ON BRIDGES OVER HIGHWAY FIRING ON REBELS AT LA CARLOTA. THERE HAD BEEN SEVERAL EXPLOSIONS THEREIN.

0620 ALBERTA MANLEY REPORTED THAT TANKS ARE SURROUNDING LA CARLOTA AND ARE FIRING INTO THE AIRFIELD. SHE CAN HEAR GLASS BREAKING. TROOPS ARE BUILDING UP AROUND THE AIRPORT.

0620 EMBOFF DAVID WELCH CALLED RSO: MILITARY VEHICLE SMASHED INTO WALL AT LA FLORESTA APARTMENTS.

0625 [REDACTED] BRIEFED DCM - INTERRUPTED BY CALL FROM [REDACTED] RECOMMENDED THAT PEOPLE IN LA FLORESTA APARTMENTS SHOULD TAKE PRECAUTIONS. DCM CALLED RSO. TOLD HIM TO CONTACT ALL LA FLORESTA RESIDENTS AND TO ALERT THEM TO THEIR SPECIAL SITUATION AND TO REQUEST EXTRA SUPPORT FOR CHANCERY PROTECTIVE DETAIL FROM NATIONAL GUARD. COL BROWNFIELD INDICATED THAT ALL REFERENCES TO "TANKS" ARE NOT ACCURATE. THERE ARE NO TANKS IN
CONFIDENTIAL B1

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VENEZUELA. THEY ARE ARMoured PERSONNEL CARRIERS WITH 90MM CANNONS.

0635 PER RANDALL BUDDEN, GSO: ALL FAMILIES IN GRINGO TOWERS HAVE BEEN CONTACTED. THE BUILDING GUARD HAS EITHER BEEN TAKEN AWAY OR LEFT, I.E., THERE IS NO GUARD. KEVIN BARRY WENT THERE IN DCM'S CAR WITH FLAK JACKET.

0640 RADIO RUMBO REPORTED THAT MARINE HEADQUARTERS

WAS ATTACKED ABOUT HALF HOUR AGO. LOOTING

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PAGE 01 CARACA 01240 080410Z
ACTION ARA-01

INFO LOG-00 AMAD-01 CA-02 COR-01 DS-00 INRE-00 INR-01
ADS-00 OCS-06 PM-01 P-01 SCT-03 SP-01 SS-01
/019W

-----0CD7EA 080419Z /63/44

P 061917Z FEB 92
FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8091

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECITON 05 OF 09 CARACAS 01240

STADIS////////////////////////////////////

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (TEXT)

E.O. 12356: DECL:OADR
TAGS: PGOV, PREL, CASC, VE
SUBJECT: EMBASSY CARACAS LOG: FEBRUARY 4 COUP ATTEMPT
WAS REPORTED IN GUARENAS.

0640 CAP APPEARED ON TV WITH DEFENSE MINISTER
GENERAL OCHOA ANTICH AND INTERIOR MINISTER
AVILA VIVAS: HE STATED THAT "ALL THE
CITIZENS HAVE DEFENDED VENEZUELA. ARMED
FORCES HAVE REPELLED ATTACK AND STOPPED THE
ASSASSINATION OF THE PRESIDENT. I REPEAT TO
ALL REBELS, STOP THIS AND PUT DOWN YOUR ARMS
AND STOP FIGHTING. WE ARE DEFENDING
VENEZUELA AND THE CONSTITUTION". HE ALSO

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SAID THAT ALL LEADERS (CULTURAL, ECONOMIC, ETC) HELPED PUT THIS DOWN. PRESIDENTS OF US AND EUROPEAN COUNTRIES HAVE CALLED TO CONDEMN THIS ATTACK AND TO OFFER SUPPORT AS HAVE LATIN AMERICAN PRESIDENTS.

THE DEFENSE MINISTER HAS BEEN IN CHARGE OF NATIONAL FORCES SINCE THE BEGINNING IN HIS ROLE AS HEAD OF MILITARY. CARACAS IS UNDER CONTROL. ZULIA AND ARAGUA HAVE NO MORE COUP PROBLEMS. ONLY CARABOBO (VALENCIA) HAS SOME PROBLEMS. SPEECH WAS FOLLOWED BY A SHORT QUESTION AND ANSWER, BUT NOTHING IMPORTANT EMERGED.

0646 MESSAGE #5 DISPATCHED (CARACAS 01100)

0650 RECEIVED REPORT THAT CONSULAR SECTION PHONE LINES ARE TIED UP WITH CONOFFS CALLING OUT ON RADIO NET. NO ONE CAN CALL IN. OPERATOR CAN'T READ OUT STATEMENT AND ALSO ANSWER PHONES. OVERWHELMED. NEED TO FIND AN OFFICE FOR THEM TO USE WITH ADDITIONAL PHONE LINES. CONGEN INSTRUCTED TO SOLVE WHAT WAS ESSENTIALLY A LOGISTICAL PROBLEM.

0653 ADMIN COUNS SAID 5-6 APC'S OR LIGHT TANKS ARE SITTING ON THE RUNWAY AT LA CARLOTA BLOCKING THE RUNWAY.

0657 PATTI HANAHAM PROVIDED FOLLOWING REPORT FROM
CONFIDENTIAL

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LA FLORESTA APARTMENTS. APPARENTLY REBELS ARE HOLED UP IN LA CARLOTA. SHE HAS HEARD SNIPER FIRE. IT MAY BE COMING FROM FLOORS IN HER BUILDING BELOW (SHE IS ON 12TH FLOOR). THERE ARE ALSO SNIPERS ON CAMACHO BUILDING. TOWER A HAS BEST VIEW OF LA CARLOTA. BUILDING GUARDS ARE BACK.

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0703 MSG ANNOUNCED FOLLOWING OVER AUDIO SYSTEM:
THERE IS HOSTILE FIRE AROUND THE BUILDING.
EVERYONE SHOULD BE INSIDE THE BUILDINGS.

0706 CALL RECEIVED FROM AMCONSUL MARACAIBO. HE
REPORTED THAT HE HAD RECEIVED CALL FROM
[REDACTED] WITH
INFO AND REQUEST: [REDACTED] ON THE SIDE
OF GOVERNMENT AND ORDERED ELECTRICITY CUT OFF
IN THE QUARTEL - FOCUS OF REBEL ARMY IN
ZULIA. THERE WAS AN ATTACK ON DISIP OFFICE.

B1

[REDACTED]
REBELS ARE HOLDING GOVERNOR. ANY INFO U.S.
CAN GIVE TO THEM WOULD BE GREATLY
APPRECIATED. DCM SAID, "CAP SAID ALL IS CALM
IN MARACAIBO" BUT JENKS CONFIRMED IT IS NOT.
DCM: WHO IS IN CHARGE OF REBELS? JENKS:
WHEN PEOPLE [REDACTED] TRY TO
CALL GOVERNOR (HELD BY REBELS) A YOUNG
SOUNDING LIEUTENANT ANSWERS THE PHONE.

0720 KEVIN BARRY, RSO, SPOKE WITH POLCOUNS.
MARINES ARE TO PUT OUT WARNING ON RADIO THAT
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EVERYONE SHOULD AVOID AUTOPISTA FROM
CCCT-EAST. DCM REITERATED THAT WE SHOULD BE
ON RECORD AS ASKING FOR ADDITIONAL SUPPORT
FROM GUARDIA NATIONAL.

0730 RSO REPORTED THAT IT LOOKS LIKE LOYALIST
FORCES ARE POSITIONING THEMSELVES AND MAY BE
READY TO RETURN FIRE AT THE SNIPER/OBSERVER
ON LA FLORESTA TOWER A. IF SO, THEY WOULD BE
FIRING AT A BUILDING WITH U.S. FAMILIES. DCM
ORDERED THAT OUR FAMILIES BE EVACUATED FROM
THE BUILDING AS A PRECAUTION AND THAT THEY BE
BE TAKEN TO THE EMBASSY COMMISSARY/SNACK BAR
AREA.

0735 POLOFF SAID THAT [REDACTED]
CALLED AT 0725 TO REPORT THAT HER HUSBAND

B1, B2

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PAGE 01 CARACA 01240 06 OF 09 080411Z
ACTION ARA-01

INFO LOG-00 AMAD-01 CA-02 COR-01 DS-00 INRE-00 INR-01
ADS-00 OCS-06 PM-01 P-01 SCT-03 SP-01 SS-01
/019W

-----0CDA1D 080529Z /23/44

P 061917Z FEB 92
FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8092

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 06 OF 09 CARACAS 01240

STADIS////////////////////////////////////

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (TEXT)

E.O. 12356: DECL:OADR
TAGS: PGOV, PREL, CASC, VE
SUBJECT: EMBASSY CARACAS LOG: FEBRUARY 4 COUP ATTEMPT
(VENEZUELAN MILITARY OFFICER) WAS CALLED IN
AT 0030 AND CALLED HER AT 0600 TO SAY THAT
THE SITUATION WAS COMPLETELY CONFUSING AND
THAT THE REBELS CONTROL MARACAY, MARACAIBO
AND VALENCIA. SHE ALSO SAID REBEL NAVY HAS
CONTROL OF LA GUAIRA PORT. PRO-GOVERNMENT
FORCES ONLY CONTROL MIRAFLORES PALACE AND ARE
TRYING TO TAKE OVER LA CARLOTA.

0740

B1

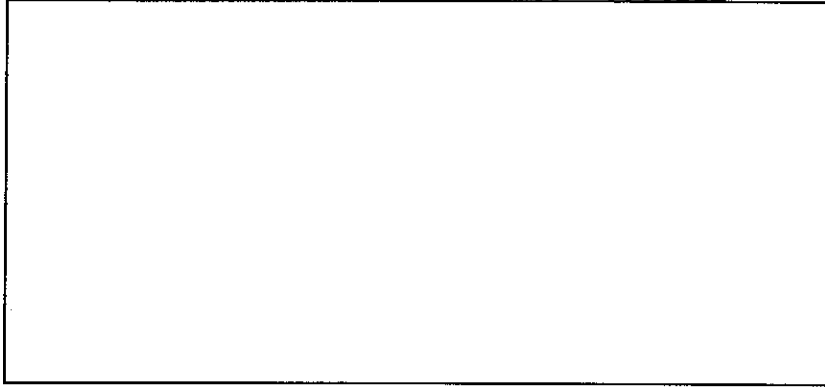
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B1



0745 ARA ASSISTANT SECRETARY ARONSON CALLED.
BRIEFED BY DCM

0750 CHANNEL 10 RAN DEPARTMENT'S STATEMENT IN
SUPPORT OF VENEZUELA AND DEMOCRACY.

0800 PER (ARSO) JACKSON BOOTH: MANLEY FAMILY AND
CINDY KIMBERLY'S SON DROPPED OFF AT EMBASSY.
RSO GOING BACK FOR MORE PEOPLE. ONLY HAS
ARMOURED STATION WAGON AND NEEDS TO MAKE
ANOTHER TRIP. BOOTH WILL KEEP US INFORMED.

0800 JENKS REPORTED PER RADIO IN MARACAIBO: LTCOL
FRANCISCO ARIAS CARDENAS IS REBEL COMMANDER
AND STILL IS HOLDING OUT WITH GOVERNOR IN
CUSTODY.

0803 CALLED [REDACTED] B1
[REDACTED] HE WILL CHECK AND CALL BACK.
CONFIDENTIAL

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0805 PER JACKSON BOOTH: WELCH FAMILY JUST DROPPED
OFF AT EMBASSY.

0806 MESSAGE #6 DISPATCHED (CARACAS 01112)

0812 REPORT FROM CG: WARDEN SYSTEM IS WORKING
WELL. FAX'S ARE NOW BEING SENT TO HOTELS, ETC.

0815 [REDACTED] REORTED THAT F-16S ARE FLYING
OVERHEAD. DCM ASKED HIM FOR STATUS REPORT ON
TANK COLUMN FROM VALENCIA. NO LEADS YET ON

B1, B2

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[REDACTED] UNCLASSIFIED

B1

0816 USCINCSO GENERAL JOULWAN CALLED. WAS BRIEFED BY DCM.

0840 MILGROUP COMMANDER REPORTED THAT DISMOUNTED INFANTRY (FROM TRUCKS) HAD SURRENDERED AT WEST END OF AIRSTRIP AT LA CARLOTA.

0855 [REDACTED] CALLED AND REPORTED THAT AIRPORT IS OPEN. ALITALIA LANDED ON TIME AT 0600. UNITED SHOULD DEPART AT 0930, ONE HALF HOUR LATE.

B6

0855 RADIO MUNDO REPORT: CAP HAS (PER RADIO MUNDO) DECLARED A STATE OF EMERGENCY AND SUSPENDED CONSTITUTIONAL GUARANTEES. WILL ASK CONGRESS TO APPROVE THIS.

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0900 SERIES OF PHONE CALLS BETWEEN AMB, ASSISTANT SECRETARY ARONSON AND DAS MCLEAN.

0905 RSO PHONED DCM TO REPORT: EVERYONE IS OUT OF LA FLORESTA APARTMENTS AND SAFE AT THE EMBASSY.

0920 RADIO NEWS ANNOUNCED THAT THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS, MEETING AT CAP'S REQUEST, HAD APPROVED A 10-DAY SUSPENSION OF CONSTITUTIONAL LIBERTIES, AND A 2-DAY SUSPENSION OF ALL FINANCIAL TRANSACTIONS (INCLUDING FOREIGN EXCHANGE).

0927 MESSAGE #7 DISPATCHED (CARACAS 01116)

0935 RADIO REPORT FROM MARACAY SAYS CITY IS COMPLETELY PARALYZED. NO BUSES ON THE STREET

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ACTION ARA-01

INFO LOG-00 AMAD-01 CA-02 COR-01 DS-00 INRE-00 INR-01
ADS-00 OCS-06 PM-01 P-01 SCT-03 SP-01 SS-01
/019W

-----0CBEEA 072303Z /65/44

P 061917Z FEB 92
FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8093

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 07 OF 09 CARACAS 01240

STADIS////////////////////////////////

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (TEXT)

E.O. 12356: DECL:OADR
TAGS: PGOV, PREL, CASC, VE
SUBJECT: EMBASSY CARACAS LOG: FEBRUARY 4 COUP ATTEMPT
AND NO ONE WENT TO WORK.

0945 S/S ESTABLISHED AN OPEN LINE TO EMBASSY
CARACAS ON EXTENSION 482.

0950 JENKS CALLED AMBASSADOR AND REPORTED
FOLLOWING: LTC FERNANDO ARRAS CARDENAS IS IN
CHARGE OF REBEL MOVEMENT. STILL CAN'T TELL
WHY REBELS CONTROL TV STATION 11 BUT ARE NOT
BROADCASTING. ALERTED SCHOOL - IT IS CLOSED
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- AND MISSIONARY GROUPS. ACTIVITY IS NORMAL
AROUND CONSULATE (IN THAT PART OF TOWN).
OTHER PARTS OF TOWN ARE CHAOTIC. GOVERNOR IS

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- 1003 ECONCONS SPOKE TO WIFE OF FAA REP VICTOR ECHEVARRIA. HE IS IN VALENCIA AIRPORT. AIRPORT IS CLOSED. HIS WIFE IS AT HOTEL. TRYING TO GET VICTOR TO CALL THE EMBASSY.
- 1003 GOVERNOR OF ZULIA RELEASED AND APPEARED BEFORE REPORTERS ON STEPS OF HIS RESIDENCE. SAID HE WAS OK, HAPPY WITH RESPONSE OF VENEZUELAN PEOPLE. HE ALSO SAID THINGS ARE GETTING BETTER AND BACK TO NORMAL IN ZULIA. HIS FAMILY IS OK. ASKED PEOPLE OF ZULIA TO BE CALM AND SUPPORT DEMOCRACY AND BE PATIENT WITH DEMOCRACY'S GROWTH. SAID HE HAD NO EXPLANATION FOR THE COUP EXCEPT THAT IN CONVERSATIONS WITH HIM, ITS LEADER HAD ASSERTED THAT IT WAS NECESSARY GIVEN THE GENERAL SITUATION AND THAT HE HAD EXPECTED MORE SUPPORT. GOVERNOR ADDED THAT WE HAVE TO LEARN FROM THIS LESSON. IT TAKES A LOT TO PERFECT A FREE SOCIETY (DEMOCRACY). PEOPLE HAVE TO UNDERSTAND THAT DEMOCRACY IS NOT EASY. WHAT IS DONE IS MORE IMPORTANT THAN WHAT IS SAID.
- 1010 MINISTER OF INFORMATION: THE NATIONAL GOV'T
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- PAGE 03 CARACA 01240 07 OF 09 072249Z
HAS APPROVED DECREE 2086, FEB 4, 1992, WHICH
WILL SUSPEND CERTAIN CONSTITUTIONAL GAURANTEES.
- 1015 GUNSHOT ECHOS AT THE EMBASSY - AUTOMATIC FIRE
FROM DIRECTION OF LA CARLOTA
- 1025 AMB TALKED TO CAP BY PHONE. CAP REPORTED
THAT EVERYTHING IS GETTING BETTER. VALENCIA
IS THE ONLY PROBLEM. LOYALISTS HAVE TAKEN
BACK LA CARLOTA. CAP CALLED GOVERNOR OF
ZULIA AND TOLD HIM TO TELL THE REBEL LTC YOU
ARE CRAZY TO KEEP THE GOVERNOR. SO HE LET
HIM GO. CAP VERY HAPPY WITH USG RESPONSE.
TOLD AMBASSADOR THAT WE NEED TO GET TOGETHER
SOON TO DISCUSS WHAT HAPPENED.

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1138 [REDACTED] B1

1140 ECONCOUNS GOT IN TOUCH WITH ECHEVARRIA, OUR
FAA REP, WHO WAS IN VALENCIA BY COINCIDENCE.
ECHEVARRIA SAID HE WAS TURNED BACK GOING TO
AIRPORT IN INDUSTRIAL AREA BY REBEL FORCES
WHO ARE IN CONTROL. SIXTY NATIONAL GUARD
TROOPS AT AIRPORT MAY BE DETAINED. REBELS
MAY ALSO BE IN CONTROL OF A NATIONAL GUARD
BRIGADE. F-16'S ARE FLYING OVERHEAD. TANKS
LINE THE HIGHWAY. TV STATIONS OPERATING
NORMALLY. AMERICANS ARE STRANDED AT
INTERCONTINENTAL HOTEL IN VALENCIA.

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1150 [REDACTED] TOLD DCM THAT THERE IS NO
LONGER ORGANIZED RESISTANCE AT LA CARLOTA.
THE ONLY VIOLENCE IS AS THE LOYAL TROOPS GO
FROM BUILDING TO BUILDING AND FIND HIDING
REBELS.

B1, B2

1155 CONGEN HOLLADAY REPORTED THAT HOSPITALS ARE
ASKING FOR BLOOD.

1155 COMMANDANTE CHAVEZ, THE REBEL LEADER,
APPEARED ON TELEVISION AND DIRECTED A MESSAGE
TO REMAINING REBELS IN MARACAIBO AND
VALENCIA. ESSENCE WAS: UNFORTUNATELY OUR
EFFORT HAS NOT SUCCEEDED -- FOR NOW ("POR
AHORA"). WE DID WELL BUT WE SHOULD NOT SPILL
MORE BLOOD. PLEASE REFLECT, AND PUT DOWN
YOUR ARMS. HEAR THIS PLEA AND STOP THE

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ADS-00 OCS-06 PM-01 P-01 SCT-03 SP-01 SS-01
/019W

-----0CBED5 072305Z /65/44

P 061917Z FEB 92
FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8094

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 08 OF 09 CARACAS 01240

STADIS//////////

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (TEXT)

E.O. 12356: DECL:OADR
TAGS: PGOV, PREL, CASC, VE
SUBJECT: EMBASSY CARACAS LOG: FEBRUARY 4 COUP ATTEMPT
FIGHTING.

1215 DCM CALLED MEETING OF EAC AT 1400 B2

1220 ALL MEMBERS NOTIFIED OF 1400 MEETING.

1230 CHAVEZ, B1
PART OF DEC 1989 HOUSE CLEANING, IS A
"PATRIOT" AND VERY ACTIVE/"PRO AMERICAN."
AMB REJECTS SUCH A LABEL: NO "PRO-AMERICAN"

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ATTACKS A DEMOCRATIC GOVERNMENT.

1245 D. JENKS CALLED. HE HAD SEEN TV REPORT ON
THE RELEASE OF ZULIA GOVERNOR. BUT AFTER THE
INTERVIEW, THE GOVERNOR WENT BACK IN AND
CONTINUED TO NEGOTIATE. NOW HE IS OUT AND
COMPLETELY FREE.

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1245 MINISTER OF DEFENSE OCHOA ANTICH APPEARED ON
TV AND STATED THAT THE COUP ATTEMPT WAS OVER.

1256 MESSAGE #9 DISPATCHED (CARACAS 01135)

1258 ANALYSIS CABLE ON WHY ATTEMPTED COUP OCCURRED
DISPATCHED (CARACAS 01136)

1300 ON TV FROM MIRAFLORES PALACE: OBVIOUS DAMAGE
TO THE PALACE. ALSO A SHOT OF THE NATIONAL
CONGRESS IN SESSION. CONGRESS PASSED
RESOLUTION CONDEMNING COUP ATTEMPT, CALLING
FOR AN INVESTIGATION AND SAYING THAT THE FULL
WEIGHT OF THE LAW SHOULD BE APPLIED TO THE
COUP PERPETRATORS.

1305 MESSAGE #8 DISPATCHED (CARACAS 01123)

1320 CONOFF CALLED TO REPORT THAT AMERICAN
AIRLINES HAS CANCELLED ALL FLIGHTS FOR
TODAY. FIRST FLIGHT SCHEDULED FOR TOMORROW
IS 4PM TO SAN JUAN. CONOFF TO CANVAS OTHER
AIRLINES. AMB ASKED CONOFF TO CHECK WITH
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OTHER AIRLINES AND FIND OUT WHAT THEY ARE
DOING. ALSO, AMB WANTS TO KNOW ABOUT FLIGHTS
FROM/TO MARACAIBO.

1325 CONOFF LAWRENCE CALLED TO SAY THAT MEXICAN
CABLE TV ECHO IS REPORTING THAT 4,200 TROOPS
IN CARABOBO (VALENCIA) REFUSE TO SURRENDER
AND THAT UNIVERSITY STUDENTS ARE JOINING IN.

1330 AMB SPOKE BY PHONE WITH USCINCSO GENERAL
JOULWAN.

1345 SPOKE WITH D. JENKS RE MARACAIBO AIR
FLIGHTS. HE WILL CHECK AND CALL BACK. HE
STILL CAN'T GET CONFIRMATION ON ZULIA
GOVERNOR'S WHEREABOUTS.

1355

B1

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1402 D. JENKS TALKED TO SECRETARY OF GOVERNOR. HE
WAS RELEASED. EVERYTHING IS BACK IN GOVERNMENT HANDS. BUT UNABLE TO REACH
AIRPORT TO SEE IF IT IS OPERATIONAL. UNCLASSIFIED

1400 EAC MEETING HELD. RESULTS REPORTED IN
CARACAS 01149

1525 OPS CENTER CALLED FOR DCM. DCM PROVIDED
UPDATED BRIEFING.

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1535 RICHARD ADAMS, CONOFF AT MARACAIBO, CALLED
FROM MARACAIBO AIRPORT. NOTHING GOING IN OR
OUT OF MARACAIBO. THERE WAS A 4PM FLIGHT TO
CARACAS - CANCELLED BECAUSE ONLY TWO
PASSENGERS. 6AM FLIGHT TO CARACAS IS THE
NEXT SCHEDULED FLIGHT.

1545 AMB PHONE CONVERSATION WITH DCM MCLEAN RE
"WHAT NOW?"

1540 [REDACTED] STILL SOME REBEL
ACTIVITY IN VALENCIA. [REDACTED]
TO BE IN PERFECT CONDITION IN SPITE OF HEAVY
DAMAGE TO OTHER PLANES AT THE LA CARLOTA
AIRPORT. [REDACTED] IT WAS A GOOD IDEA TO
EVACUATE LA FLORESTA APARTMENTS. THERE ARE A
LOT OF BULLET HOLES IN THE BUILDING.

B1

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ACTION ARA-01

INFO LOG-00 AMAD-01 CA-02 COR-01 DS-00 INRE-00 INR-01
ADS-00 OCS-06 PM-01 P-01 SCT-03 SP-01 SS-01
/019W

-----OCBEE5 072306Z /65/44

P 061917Z FEB 92
FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8095

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 09 OF 09 CARACAS 01240

STADIS////////////////////////////////

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (TEXT)

E.O. 12356: DECL:OADR
TAGS: PGOV, PREL, CASC, VE
SUBJECT: EMBASSY CARACAS LOG: FEBRUARY 4 COUP ATTEMPT
1545 COML OFF BUCALO SAYS THAT NIGHT DUTY OFFICERS
MAY GET CALLS FROM IRATE AMCITS STRANDED AT
THE AIRPORT: IMMIGRATION IS NOT ALLOWING
INCOMING PASSENGERS TO ENTER THE COUNTRY.
THE REASON GIVEN IS THAT THE HIGHWAY TO
CARACAS FROM THE AIRPORT IS CLOSED DUE TO A
WATER LINE BREAK.

1550 DCM TOOK DECISION TO SET UP ROUND THE CLOCK
COVERAGE OF EMBASSY IN VIEW OF
UNCERTAINTIES. POLOFFS GLENN AND VOCKERODT
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WERE ASKED TO SPLIT THE NIGHT DUTY.

1555 PER EMBASSY RADIO NET THERE IS STILL IS STILL
SHOOTING AROUND THE PALACE.

1555 S. TERRY PASSED DUTY TO KEN DURKIN

1600 GSO BUDIN CALLED TO ASK IF TRANSPORTATION
SHOULD BE MADE AVAILABLE FOR NIGHT DUTY
OFFICERS. DCM SAID IT SHOULD.

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1625 CONOFF BUENTELLO CALLED. SAID THAT [REDACTED] B1
[REDACTED] AT AIRPORT SAYS
DISEMBARKING PASSENGERS ARE BEING ALLOWED TO UNCLASSIFIED
LEAVE AIRPORT FOR CITY. HIGHWAY IS OPEN.

1627 [REDACTED] VENEZUELA B6
CALLED. SAID HE'S SENDING LETTER OF SUPPORT
TO GOV - WILL CONTINUE TO COOPERATE ON
PROJECT WITH GOV DESPITE COUP ATTEMPT.

1630 OPS CENTER CALLED. ASKED IF THERE WAS MORE
FIGHTING AT MIRAFLORES? CALLED POLOFF
VOCKERODT: HE SAID NO, JUST SPORADIC SNIPER
FIRE FROM ADJOINING NEIGHBORHOOD.

1632 CALLED POLITICAL SECTION: OP CENTER WANTS
SITREPS SENT NIACT.

1632 ANALYSIS CABLE ON POSSIBLE SEQUEL TO FAILED
COUP ATTEMPT (RIOTING IN POOR NEIGHBORHOODS)
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DISPATCHED (CARACAS 01150)

1635 REPORTER FROM US CALLED AND ASKED FOR AMB.
REFERRED HIM TO USIS. WANTED COMMENTS FOR A
STORY.

1612 BARBARA MOORE (USIS) CALLED. SHE CAN BE
REACHED AT HOME OR AT BOB BUCALO'S IF WE GET
ANY PRESS INQUIRIES. IF VENEZUELAN PRESS
CALLS, TELL THEM WE'LL HAVE NOTHING NEW UNTIL
TOMORROW.

1649 MESSAGE #10 DISPATCHED (CARACAS 01151)

1725 DUTY PASSED TO POLOFF JIM GLENN

2330 SHANON FIAN, NBC "NIGHTSIDE" PRODUCER IN
CHARLOTTE, NC, CALLED FOR BARBARA MOORE AT
23:30. AFTER CHECKING WITH BARBARA, SHE WAS
GIVEN HER NUMBER.

FEBRUARY 5, 1992

0000 POLOFF VICTOR VOCKERODT TAKES OVER DUTY.

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0405 US SOUTH COMMAND OFFICER CALLED 1) TO MAKE
SURE LINES ARE WORKING AND 2) UPDATE ON ANY
NEWS REPORT. HE WAS TOLD EVERYTHING IS
QUIET. NO NEWS SINCE MIDNIGHT.

0600 CALL FROM A US MOTHER RE CAMPO ALEGRE AND
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SAFETY. INFORMED HER THAT EMBASSY CHILDREN
WILL BE GOING TO SCHOOL.

0834 MESSAGE #12 DISPATCHED (LAST SITREP).

0835 LOG CLOSED

SKOL

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